

A woman lived in a hole. At night she used to get her knife, a stringbag and steal food from other people's gardens. This she took back to her place under the ground. In the day she would sleep. At night she stole food, cooked it up and went to sleep. She was doing that. One night she went to the village and stole their mats, tapa cloth, kerefun and took them back to her hole which was now full of these things. When she woke up in the morning she saw that she now had plenty of things. "This time I'll go and look for a new husband," she said. So in the afternoon, the old woman came out. She looked down the coast and saw a big village. It was good moonlight and the people were getting ready to dance. "Soon," she said, "I will come down and steal one of your husbands." So when it was dark the old woman became a flying fox and flew down to the village.

All the people saw it and said, "Oh big flying fox! Big flying fox!" She flew down close to the young men, wondering which one she would take. When she looked down she saw one young man. She said, "I'm going to get you to be my husband." She flew up to the coconut tree. Some people asked, "Where did that flying fox go?" "It is up there in the coconut tree."

All the people danced until very late. They said, "We will stop now; it is very late. Tomorrow we will dance." So they all went to their houses. Some were youths and others were young husbands. The youths went to sleep with the girls and the husbands went to their wives. That young man she liked went up to the house where his wife was.

While he was sleeping, the flying fox came in the window. It saw that the man was sleeping. So very carefully it picked up the man, took him out of the window and started back for her place. When she came to her place, she opened the door and went underground. She had previously prepared everything - a new mat and tapa cloth (koefi) - and so she took him down.

That man slept and slept and then began moving. That morning that old woman got up, cooked the food and said to him, "You get up and we will eat this food together." First that man thought that he was in his own place, but it was very dark. The old woman said, "Get up and eat your food." So he joined her with the food. After that the man knew that he was in the hole. She said, "If you need to go to the toilet or have a bath go to that place there." So he did that. He had nothing to do so he would sleep both day and night.

He stayed with that old woman a long time. He really knew that place. One night the young man pretended to sleep. The old woman took her knife and stringbag and prepared to go out. In this way the man saw the way out of the hole. The woman went to the garden and came back. She cooked the food and they ate.

Early next morning while the woman was sleeping, the man rushed up. He looked down the coast and he could see his place. He wondered, "How did I get up here? It is a very long way." When he returned to the hole the woman was still fast asleep. "You won't get up quickly; there is enough time for me to get back to my place." So he went up carefully, opened the door and then ran towards his place. Outside it was all kunai grass. He climbed on darada tree. He said, "If I go through the grass it will take too long, so I will go by those big trees." He ran and ran. He came to where they used to hunt. "This is the place where my brohters and I killed pigs." He kept running until he came up to the gardens. But he didn't stop; he kept running.

He came to the village as the sun was sinking.

Before this the wife had looked and asked for him. None of his friends knew what had become of him. So his wife became kenna and she was staying up in the house. All the people looked for him in the bush and the salt water. They couldn't find his body and were very sad. That afternoon the widow thought of her husband. She was very sad and started to cry.

When the man got to the village he knew that the old lady would be after him. So he came up to his house and began to pound on the door, "Open the door! Open the door!" His wife cried out, "Who is this man outside. My husband died and I am crying for him. Who is knocking on my door?" Her husband said, "Open up. I am your husband I didn't die." So the woman got up, came outside and let the husband in. When he came in she began to cry. He said, "Don't cry for me. I am in trouble. That old woman is coming after me." He said, "You quickly tell all the people to gather and I will tell them the story before she comes."

So all the people gathered and he told them the story. He said, "It is getting dark. Soon you will see the flying fox come to get me." So all the people went home, sharpened their spears and waited for the flying fox to come for him. When it was dark the flying fox came around the village. The people waited for it. When it came low and tried to get through the window, the people speared the dibere. All the people ran to cut its head with an axe. But she said, "Don't cut my head quickly. I will first tell you something! I took all the things to my place. Then I stole this man as my husband. So go up and get those things." After she said that, they chopped off its head.

Then they cut up that big flying fox and they all ate it.